**Multi-Genre Autoethnography**

*21st Century Texts*

Over the next couple weeks, you will be completing a **multigenre paper** centered on a particular subculture that you feel as though you belong. This multi-genre paper will provide a thoughtful and creative perspective on your subculture, as well as enhancing outsiders’ understanding of this distinct group through your use of various texts. After completing your paper, you will choose one of your genres to present to your classmates.

**What is a multigenre?**

A multigenre paper is a “complex, multilayered, multivoiced blend of genres, each revealing information about the topic, each self- contained, making a point of its own, unconnected to the other genres by conventional transitions” (Romano 4). The separateness

of each entry is important; think of each entry as a “color slide,”

***gen·re****: a category of artistic composition, as in music or literature, marked by a distinctive style, form or content*

says Romano (4). These snapshots combine to create a part of the factual world of your subject, but they also try to recreate the emotional mood of the subject (4).

Specifically, Romano defines a multigenre paper, in his book, *Blending Genre, Altering Style* (2000) as a

paper [that] arises from research, experience, and imagination. It is not an uninterrupted, expository monolog nor a seamless narrative nor a collection of poems. A multigenre paper is composed of many genres and subgenres, each piece self-contained, making a point of its own, yet connected by theme

or topic and sometimes by language, images, and content. In addition to many genres, a multigenre

paper may also contain many voices, not just the author’s. (x-xi)

**Requirements**

You will compose different **genres**, or types of texts, to create your multigenre paper. It will include the following components:

A title page that gives your readers a glimpse into your topic.

An author’s notes page explaining your purpose in creating each genre. Why did you choose this genre? What effect do you hope this has on your audience?

4-5 genres

o One genre must be a 2-3 page (double-spaced) essay exploring one particular element or aspect of your subculture.

o One genre (if you choose) does not have to be original (song lyrics, images, etc)

Visual elements to add meaning and depth to your genres. This could include color, sketches, photos, collage, thoughtful text arrangement, etc. Neatness and presentation are key.

**GENRE POSSIBILITIES (4-5 total required)**

The most effective genres arise naturally from the subculture on which you’re focusing. For example, if you were creating a multi-genre paper centering on the Zephyr Boys from Dogtown, one of your genres may be a journal entry written from Tony Alva’s perspective after his first day skating an empty swimming pool. This entry would be made to *look* like a journal entry, with special attention to voice and style. Another genre could be a piece of graffiti found at Pacific Ocean Park, commanding outsiders to “Go home!”

All of your genres should be different and should show thought and attention to voice/style. Check out the following for possible genres you might try, but feel free to come up with your own.

***\*\*\*essay (required)*** *first person narrative third person narrative*

*dialogue/phone conversation interior monologue*

*diary entry*

*news article advice column classified ad editorial letters/postcards*

*newscast*  
*dictionary entry free-verse poem two-voice poem haiku*

*found poem email*

*Facebook profile instant message chat job application*

*report card greeting card*

*invitation*

*comic strip photo recipe collage sketch script tattoo graffiti bumper sticker dream*

*manual /brochure doctor’s report*

*police report top 10 list*

*song lyrics related research horoscope related statistics prayer license plate poster contract*

*map advertisement*